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ON THE
MARRIAGE AND INTERMARRIAGE
OF THE
DEAF AND DUMB.

By DAVID BUXTON, F.R.S.L.

1857.

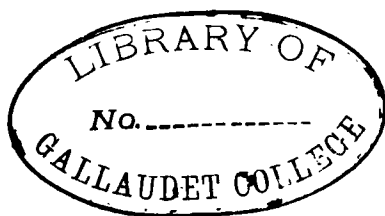
COLUMBIA INSTITUTION

—FOR THE—

DEAF AND, DUMB

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With the Warmest Compliments,

ON THE

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BY DAVID BUXTON, F.R.S.L.

PRINCIPAL OF THE LIVERPOOL SCHOOL FOR THE DEAF AND DUMB.

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ON THE MARRIAGE AND INTERMARRIAGE OF THE DEAF AND DUMB.

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THE Returns of the last Census revealed the fact, that in the year 1851, there were in the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, 17,300 persons who were deaf and dumb.

No one will deny, that a question which concerns the social position and domestic happiness of so large a number of our fellow-subjects, is fully worthy to engage the attention of the philanthropist ; and as the subject before us can scarcely be discussed without reference to matters which fall either very close to the boundary, or absolutely within the proper range, of medical science, I have thought it not unsuitable to employ the opportunity afforded me of contributing to these pages, by introducing a topic, which whatever it may lack of general interest, has certainly the very unusual advantage of never having been thus directly brought under the consideration of English readers before.

The local distribution of the deaf and dumb of Great Britain and Ireland was found, on the 31st of March, 1851, to be as follows :—

	NO. OF DEAF & DUMB.	TOTAL POPULATION.	PROPORTION.
ENGLAND	9,543	16,738,695	1 in 1754
IRELAND	4,747	6,552,324	1 in 1380
SCOTLAND	2,155	2,888,742	1 in 1340
WALES (includ'g Monmouthshire) ..	771	1,188,914	1 in 1542
ISLANDS IN THE BRITISH SEAS ...	84	143,126	1 in 1704
TOTAL	17,300	27,511,801	1 in 1590

The next table shows how the number of deaf persons varies in different localities :—

	NO. OF DEAF & DUMB.	TOTAL POPULATION.	PROPORTION.
NORTHERN COUNTIES OF ENGLAND..	471	969,126	1 in 2058
NORTH WESTERN, <i>i.e.</i> Lancashire } and Cheshire	1,237	2,490,827	1 in 2014
SOUTH EASTERN COUNTIES	836	1,628,386	1 in 1948
SOUTH MIDLAND DITTO	649	1,234,332	1 in 1902
LONDON	1,325	2,362,236	1 in 1783
NORTH MIDLAND COUNTIES	694	1,214,538	1 in 1750
YORKSHIRE	1,042	1,789,047	1 in 1717
EASTERN COUNTIES	669	1,113,982	1 in 1665
WEST MIDLAND DITTO	1,325	2,132,930	1 in 1610
WALES (including Monmouthshire)...	771	1,188,914	1 in 1542
CONNAUGHT, Ireland	674	1,010,031	1 in 1499
SOUTHERN COUNTIES OF SCOTLAND..	1,225	1,813,562	1 in 1480
LEINSTER, Ireland	1,135	1,672,753	1 in 1474
SOUTH WESTERN COUNTIES OF } ENGLAND	1,295	1,803,291	1 in 1393
ULSTER, Ireland	1,527	2,011,890	1 in 1318
MUNSTER, Ditto	1,411	1,857,650	1 in 1317
NORTHERN COUNTIES OF SCOTLAND..	930	1,075,180	1 in 1156

It will be seen that the grouping of the districts named is not geographical, but according to the varying proportions of the deaf and dumb to the general population. Beginning with the northern counties of England—where the proportion is the lightest—it proceeds gradually to the other extreme point of the scale, showing that in the most northerly parts of Scotland there are nearly twice as many deaf and dumb persons in a given number of the population as there are in the district comprising Cumberland, Northumberland, Durham, and Westmoreland; or in our own County of Lancaster.

But the enquiry which furnishes us with these results was not confined to the simple object of ascertaining the total *number* of Deaf mutes ; it sought also to classify them according to *sex* and *age* : and here is its value in relation to the subject now under consideration.

Of the 17,300 persons described as deaf and dumb, it appeared that 9,572 were males, and 7,728 females ; and they were distributed thus :—

	MALES.	FEMALES.	TOTAL.
ENGLAND	5,230	4,913	9,543
IRELAND	2,688	2,059	4,747
SCOTLAND	1,198	957	2,155
WALES	410	361	771
ISLANDS IN THE BRITISH SEAS ...	46	38	84
TOTAL	9,572.	7,728	17,300

In the published Returns of the Census, the ages of the whole population are given, in periods of five years, up to the age of "100 and upwards."* As the more suitable way of bringing the evidence to bear upon the present subject of investigation, I have divided the whole number into those who are under twenty years of age, and those who have passed that

* From those relating to the Deaf and Dumb (Vol. I. p. cccx.) we find that there were in Great Britain (exclusive of Ireland, where the classification does not proceed beyond "50 and upwards") 270 Deaf mutes—136 males and 134 females—who had passed the age of 70 years ; namely :—

	70	75	80	85	90	95	100 AND UPWARDS	TOTAL.
MALES	62	41	24	4	4	0	1	136
FEMALES	54	50	21	6	3	0	0	134
TOTAL	116	91	45	10	7	0	1	270

The centenarian in this list was a resident of Hampshire. Three of the ten between 85 and 90, and five of the seven between 90 and 95, were inhabitants of Scotland ; the sixth was a resident of one of the Channel Islands, and the seventh a man in Derbyshire. The American Census of 1850 records a white deaf and dumb woman in South Carolina who had attained the age of 100 years. By the Prussian Census of 1828, it appeared that there was only one Deaf-mute in that country (out of 8,223) who was between 85 and 90 years, and five between 80–85.—(*New York Report*, p. 121.) It is not improbable that some of the cases put down in the British Returns were those in which deafness arose from the debility of old age, and not from congenital defect.

age. Under this arrangement the figures take the following shape :—

	Under 20.		Above 20.		TOTAL.
	MALES.	FEMALES.	MALES.	FEMALES.	
GREAT BRITAIN	3306	2612	3578	3057	12553
IRELAND	1259	966	1429	1093	4747
TOTAL	4565	3578	5007	4150	17300

Hence we see that 47 per cent., or 8,143 persons, were under 20 years of age ; and 53 per cent., or 9,157 persons, were above that age. The proportion of males to females was nearly as five to four. The official report gives the result in a different form, stating that, " In Great Britain, and [separately] in England and Wales, there are 121 male Deaf-mutes to 100 females ; in Scotland the inequality is somewhat greater, namely, 125 males to 100 females ; in the Islands in the British Seas there are 121 males to 100 females. The Irish Returns," adds the writer, " give the reversed proportion of 111 females to 100 males."* It will have been seen, however, by the last table, that the Irish Returns do no such thing. They are corroborative, not contradictory, of the conclusion furnished by the other data. What gave rise to this strange blunder, it is hard to say ;† but so far from that most elaborate and valuable document (*The Report on the Status of Disease*) being a witness to the " reversed proportion of 111 females to 100 males," it actually shows that in Ireland there were no less than 130 males to 100 females, or " 100 to 76.60 " (v. *Status*, p. 10) ; although, it adds, " it must be remarked that, according to the present Census, there is rather an undue proportion of females above males in Ireland."‡ And wherever the numbers have been ascertained, the same kind of disproportion has been found to exist. It is true that the more limited areas of some of our

* Census Report—" *The Deaf and Dumb*"—Vol. I, p. 114.

† Since writing the above, I have discovered what it is which has no doubt led to the mistake : the Table of the *Blind* has been taken for that of the *Deaf and Dumb*—a strange blunder, surely, to be made by the officials who had the compilation of the Census Returns.

‡ "*Status of Disease*," p. 10.

English counties furnish local exceptions,* but in the national aggregate of every country the same final result appears. Dr. Peet, of New York, has collected nearly all the known facts upon this subject; and, omitting some of the smaller and less populous European states from the enumeration, I may mention that in Belgium, Saxony, Hanover, Denmark, Sweden, Norway,† Switzerland, Sardinia, and in the United States of America, both among the white and the coloured population, the excess of males over females is the invariable characteristic of the Deaf-mute population. In the London Asylum for the Education of Deaf and Dumb Children, which is the largest institution of the kind in the world, the complement of 300 pupils is generally composed of 180 boys to 120 girls.‡ At the New York Institution, which in point of extent ranks next to London, the number of pupils admitted, from the foundation of the Institution to January, 1854, was 1,165, of whom 640 were males and 525 females. The accumulation of similar facts, from other sources, would only serve still further to exhibit what has already been sufficiently shown.

* This is the case in the Counties of Berks, Bedford, Salop, Derby, Monmouth, and Nottingham, where the Deaf-mute females slightly outnumber the males—in the last-named county by one only. In Gloucestershire and Westmoreland the numbers of the two sexes are exactly equal.

† Dr. Peet gives Returns for Norway of the date of 1835. The results of the succeeding Census (1845) being now before me, I will insert them here, for the purpose of comparison:—

	1835.			1845.		
	MALES.	FEMALES.	TOTAL.	MALES.	FEMALES.	TOTAL.
TOWNS	58	43	101	75	48	123
RURAL } DISTRICTS }	540	450	990	531	452	983
TOTAL.....	598	493	1,091	606	500	1,106

In the same period the aggregate population had increased from 1,194,827 to 1,329,616 souls.—*Journal of Statistical Society*, 1852, p. 256.

‡ It was in the presence of this fact that the late Mr. George Pilcher, of Westminster, author of the Fothergillian Essay on "the Diseases of the Ear," remarked to me, upon the spot, some years ago, upon the very singular exception which deafness forms in this respect to all other physical defects. It is found that females are generally more liable to such defects than the stronger sex: but to this otherwise invariable rule, deafness is the sole exception. It may not be uninteresting to add here a classified list of two thousand cases which fell under the observation of Dr.

We have now seen, upon incontestible evidence, that more than half the deaf mutes of the United Kingdom are above the age of twenty years: and presuming, as we may fairly do, that this is so in every country, it is clear that the question at present under consideration is one which very nearly concerns the domestic happiness and social position of a numerous and interesting class of our fellow creatures, and is therefore fully deserving of the attention now claimed for it. Stated as I have purposely put it, in the title of this paper, the enquiry naturally divides itself into two branches: 1. Is there any sufficient reason why the deaf and dumb should not marry? And 2. Is it well that they should marry each other? To both these questions I am prepared to give the same emphatic answer, No. But the justification of such a reply depends upon facts, which I shall proceed to adduce, to show that the deaf and dumb should not be forbidden to marry, but that their intermarriage is highly objectionable.

The thought which would immediately occur to almost every intelligent person, on the suggestion of a marriage in which one of the parties was deaf and dumb, would most probably be, that the defect would be transmitted to the children of such marriage. It would, of course, be idle to deny the possibility of this result, because it is a possible result from any marriage, whether the contracting parties be deaf or not. What we have to consider is its probability. And that the apprehension is in a great measure ill-founded we might safely assume, because no one knows the extent of the liability. The facts which bear upon the subject have been gathered by very

Kramer, of Berlin, during fifteen years' practice. The table is taken from a paper on Deafness and Diseases of the Ear, by Mr. O. W. Morris, the Principal of the Tennessee Institution for the Deaf and Dumb:—

	TOTAL CASES.	MALES.	FEMALES.
Disease of the Auricle	5	2	3
" " Auditory Passage.....	281	207	74
" " Membrana Tympani....	442	311	131
" " Middle Ear	198	141	57
Nervous Deafness.....	1028	581	447
Deaf Dumbness	46	32	14
TOTAL.....	2000	1274	726

few hands, and they are very little known. To fear where there is uncertainty, and to exaggerate what is vague, is common to all of us, for it is an attribute of human nature. Yet even the poet has told us, that

“ All things are less dreadful than they seem.”

And there are doubtless many persons who would express surprise, if they were told that the deafness of children is neither the universal consequence, nor even a frequent or ordinary result of the marriage of deaf and dumb persons. The Irish Census Report states that “ the defect is seldom transmitted direct from parents to children.* The Principal of the American Asylum, at Hartford, says, “ In only a few instances have we known it transmitted by parents to their children.”† The President of the New York Institution, also declares, “ We can show that it is much the most common for the children of deaf-mute parents, to possess the faculties of which their parents were deprived.”‡ He states further, “ Of those families in which one of the parents only is deaf and dumb,” (referring to a table which will be presently alluded to,) “ we find only two in which the calamity has passed to the children, namely, one in New England, and one in Ireland, or about one family in 135.”¶ And he adds, shortly afterwards, “ Surely this chance of one in one hundred and thirty five, should not prevent any union likely to promote the happiness and welfare of the parties.”||

That hereditary deafness is more commonly the result of intermarriage can excite no wonder ; because the union of two deaf-mutes does not simply double the liability of their offspring to the defect of their parents,—it does very much more. If one parent is deaf, and the other is not, the liability to inherit the defective organisation of the former may be corrected and overcome by the soundness and vigour of the other parent : but in the case of intermarriage, there is not only nothing to correct this liability, there is everything to strengthen it. It is a fact, therefore, that while in most families, born of deaf-mute parents,

* Status of Disease, p. 13.

† *Tribute to Gallaudet*, Appendix, p. 260. Hartford, 1852.

‡ New York Report for 1853., p. 89. ¶ Ibid., p. 101-2. ¶ Ibid. p. 102.

all the children hear perfectly ;* there are other cases in which one or more children are congenitally deaf : and some, indeed, wherein all the children, as well as both the parents, are thus afflicted. There are two or three families in London of whom this is true : another couple at Halifax, Yorkshire, have four children, all deaf and dumb ;† and Dr. Peet mentions a family of six children—three of each sex—who were all born deaf, like their parents :‡ and another most remarkable case, of a deaf-mute woman, who, having married twice, had issue first—by a hearing man—one daughter, who heard and spoke, and who became herself the mother of hearing children ; secondly, by a deaf-mute husband, the woman first-named had four other children—three daughters and a son—who were all congenitally deaf, like their two parents.¶ In these cases, however, it appears that the parties intermarrying were not only deaf and dumb themselves, but members of families which contained other deaf-mutes besides themselves, thereby immensely increasing the probability that the family defect would be transmitted to their offspring. I can affirm this of some of the London cases from my own knowledge of the parties. The woman with four children at Halifax, seems to have had a sister afflicted like herself.¶ The mother in America who had six deaf children, was one of seven in her family born deaf, out of fourteen ;§ and the second woman, who after having a hearing daughter by her first marriage had four deaf children by her second, was one of three sisters, all deaf, and her deaf-mute husband was also one of three congenital mutes in the same family. Moreover, there was deafness in other branches of the woman's family : she had two nieces and a great-uncle thus afflicted, besides her sisters and children ; thus making, with herself, ten deaf-mutes in three generations.∴ These of course are extreme cases. They do not represent simply the consequences

* One of the members of the House of Commons, a frequent speaker and able man, and the representative of a large and important constituency, is the son of parents both of whom were deaf and dumb.

† Doncaster Report for 1856, pp. 3-4.

‡ New York Report for 1853, p. 91.

¶ Ibid, p. 90.

¶ Report of Former Pupils, Doncaster, 1847 ; — compare pp. 11, 15, 27, 56.

§ New York Report for 1853, p. 91.

∴ Ibid, p. 90.

of the intermarriage of deaf-mute individuals, but of deaf-mute families. Here, if anywhere, the evils of such alliances might be expected to declare themselves most decidedly : and so they do. Happily, however, such unions are rare. Still, though the occurrence of deafness in all the children of an intermarriage is very uncommon, the number of instances in which the defect of the parents is known to have descended to *some* of their offspring is constantly increasing. And yet, when both the parents are deaf and dumb, it may almost be questioned whether these deaf children are not—in early age at least, or during the time in which children are ordinarily dependent upon their parents—more fortunate than their brothers and sisters who can hear and speak. The parents may direct and train one afflicted like themselves, whose only language is their own—that of signs and gestures ; but how shall they direct and train, how correct and rebuke, how foster and encourage, the child whose voice they cannot hear, and who is constantly drinking in, through that wonderful channel of communication which in them is utterly closed, words of instruction, of suggestion, aye and of corruption too,* of which they are altogether unconscious ? If this were the place in which to enlarge upon the subject, there is no want of the most weighty reasons against the formation of matrimonial alliances between persons congenitally deaf and dumb. The disadvantages to the parties themselves are very serious ; but to their children they are so great that it is hardly possible to exaggerate them. In every point of view—educational and domestic, moral and intellectual—an injury is done to them, for which nothing can com-

* As a singular and painful instance of this, nothing can be more conclusive than the following :—Near to one of the large canals running into London, a deaf-mute couple lived, who had several children, all of whom heard perfectly. Now, we know that children learn to speak by imitating the speech of others. In so doing they often repeat words of which they scarcely know the meaning. The parents of these poor children could not teach them to speak, but they had their teachers, notwithstanding. The profaneness of men engaged in canal traffic is too well known ; and these little creatures, constantly overhearing the oaths and imprecations of the boatmen, used to repeat them in their childish prattle with each other, under the very eyes of parents who loved them tenderly, but who could not hear a single word they uttered. Here the watchfulness of neighbours and strangers had to step in, to perform a sacred part of parental duty.

pensate, and which it will be well if they are not made to feel, and to mourn over, to the latest day of their lives.

With the exception of the valuable data upon this and other subjects connected with the deaf and dumb, contained in the Irish Census Report on the *Status of Disease*, we have scarcely any accessible statistics upon the marriage of Deaf-mutes worth mentioning, except those which are contained in various publications of the American institutions. To these I am indebted for some of the figures in the subjoined table. Other facts (those relating to Liverpool and Manchester) have been collected for the purposes of this paper, and are now first published. The quotation relating to the Metropolis is taken from a recent number of the Magazine published by the London Association in Aid of the Adult Deaf and Dumb. Interesting and valuable as it is, its information is more scanty than one would expect. The Statistics of the London Asylum, embracing a period of sixty-five years, and extending to upwards of 2700 pupils, who have been received from all parts of the kingdom, would throw a flood of light upon this and kindred subjects, which would go far to establish correct notions upon these matters and to dispel erroneous ones. Having been myself engaged for several years in the compilation of those facts, I have the best reason to know their value; and though I cannot, of course, refer more particularly to a private document, it would be idle to deny that whatever weight may be attached to the opinions and views propounded in this paper, is due, not exclusively to a comparison of the facts here set forth, but also to a familiar acquaintance with other data, which as yet are under the seal of official confidence.

The following table shows the number of marriages and intermarriages which are known to have taken place, either in the various localities named, or (as in the instances numbered 7, 8, 9, and 10) among the former pupils of the institutions in those places. This latter fact explains the inequality in the number of the two sexes, which might at first sight appear erroneous, especially as the two columns finally give the same total :—

	MARRIED HEARING PERSONS.		MARRIED DEAF-MUTES.	
	MALES.	FEMALES.	MALES.	FEMALES.
1.—London	13	3	50	50
2.—Liverpool.....	4	0	14	14
3.—Manchester	8	4	14	14
4.—Ireland.....	54	32	6	6
5.—Paris	14	4	15	15
6.—Groningen	28	8	6	6
7.—New York	19	29	66	77
8.—Hartford, U. S.	43	25	104	89
9.—Ohio	13	4	18	21
10.—Indiana.....	2	3	10	11
Total	198	112	303	303

The facts which are known respecting other places are so few in number, that I have not thought it necessary to add them to the list. They in no way affect the general result, which, from the foregoing figures, we learn to be this: where two deaf men marry hearing wives, three marry deaf ones; and where three deaf women have deaf husbands, only one is married to a man who hears. Taking the items of the table in order, I shall proceed to add some other facts in addition to, or illustration of, the mere figures there given.

1. LONDON.—Out of the fifty families formed by the intermarriages, five have ten deaf children. In the other sixteen, where only one parent is deaf and dumb, there are no deaf children: but the writer of the statement knew of eighty-one deaf children in the Metropolis, belonging to thirty-two different families, in which both the parents hear perfectly.*

2. LIVERPOOL.—From these eighteen marriages there are numerous children, not one of whom is deaf.

3. MANCHESTER.—From three of the intermarriages, there have been deaf-mute children; and one deaf mother, by a hearing husband, has two or three deaf children, one of whom has become blind also. The mother's father was a deaf-mute. Here, therefore, is another case of deafness occurring in three successive generations.†

* Magazine for the Deaf and Dumb, No. IV., July, 1856, p. 51.

† I have to thank my friend Mr. A. Patterson, the Principal of the Manchester Institution, for this information.

4. IRELAND.—In nineteen cases, no account of the offspring of these unions was received. In the families wherein one parent was deaf, there were 203 children, only one of whom was deaf and dumb. The six couples who had intermarried, had thirteen children, and one of these was deaf and dumb.* From an interesting table, constructed to show how far congenital deafness can be traced to hereditary predisposition, it appears that whereas in nine families it was derived from grandparents, in only two had it descended from the father, and in four from the mother.†

5. PARIS.—In only one of these thirty-three families was there any transmission of deafness. In this case one deaf-mute couple had two children afflicted like themselves.‡

6. GRONINGEN.—From one of the six intermarriages there had sprung four children, two of whom were deaf and dumb. Numerous children had been born of the other marriages, but all of them possessed perfect hearing.||

7. NEW YORK.—“Only two cases are known among the 120 or 130 families formed by the former pupils of the New York Institution who have married, in which the infirmity of the parents has descended directly to their children. In one case, mentioned above, the parents were both deaf-mutes; and the mother, one of seven deaf-mutes in one family, had six children all born deaf. In the other case, only one child of four was a deaf-mute. A third case should perhaps be added, in which a deaf-mute couple have a child that has become partially deaf by sickness. (?) * * * * * Counting only those whose parents were pupils of the institution; there hardly seems to be one family in fifty in which the misfortune is transmitted directly from parents to children.” It is estimated, generally, that where both parents are deaf, about one in twenty of the children is deaf-mute also; and that where only one parent is deaf, only one child in 135 is so. No instance is known among the pupils of the New York Institution wherein deaf-dumbness has been transmitted through three successive generations.¶

* Irish Census Report on the Status of Disease, p. 13.

† See Status of Disease: Table, p. 18.

‡ New York Report for 1853, p. 93.

|| Ibid, p. 96.

¶ American Annals of the Deaf and Dumb, July, 1854, p. 235.

8. HARTFORD, *Connecticut*.—The Principal of this Institution, the oldest in the United States, and which is denominated the “American” Asylum, reckons that one in twenty of the children of deaf-mute parents is deaf-mute likewise.* At an interesting meeting of the Deaf and Dumb held there, in September, 1854, for the inauguration of a monument, subscribed for and designed by themselves, to the memory of the founder—“their earliest and best friend and benefactor”—there were present three hundred and ninety deaf-mutes, including, of course, the pupils of the Institution. They came from sixteen different States, and had been educated in seven different institutions. The oldest person was 69 years of age, having finished his studies in Paris in 1805.† One hundred and fifty of them were married. Forty-five husbands were present with their wives, thirty-one others whose deaf-mute partner was either absent or dead, and twenty-nine whose partner could hear and speak. Of the 105 families represented, 71 had children, amounting in all to 154. All of these children could hear except eight, and they belonged to five different families. In three of these families there was one hearing and one deaf child; in another, two deaf children; and in the other, three deaf ones. The parents of these children were all deaf-mutes. About five per cent. of all the children were deaf-mute, and the same proportion of families had deaf-mute children in them.‡ In 1851 three instances were known to the authorities of the American Asylum, in which deafness had been transmitted through three successive generations. Of the 144 families which had up to that time been formed by the former pupils of that Institution, there were deaf and dumb children in only five of them; while in other families of six or eight children each, all could hear and speak.||

9. OHIO.—“In no instance has the misfortune of deafness,” says the late Principal, “been perpetuated in the children” of the former pupils who have become heads of families.¶

* *American Annals* for January, 1856, p. 119.

† This was Mr. Laurent Clerc, the pupil of the Abbé Sicard, and schoolfellow of Massieu. I am happy to acknowledge that it is to Mr. Clerc himself that I am indebted for the document quoted in the text.

‡ *Hartford Report* for 1854, p. 14.

|| *Tribute to Gallaudet*, Appendix, p. 260.

¶ *Annals of the Deaf and Dumb*, January, 1854, p. 124.

10. INDIANA.—The numbers in the table are extracted from a list of the pupils, and no additional facts are given.

Assuming then—for the purpose of arriving now at a definite, practical conclusion—that the estimate of Dr. Peet, given above, is as nearly correct as the nature of the case and the present state of our knowledge will admit of, we find that the probability of congenital deafness in the offspring is *nearly seven times greater when both parents are deaf, than when only one is so*. In the latter case, one child in 135—less than three-quarters per cent.—proves to be deaf; but in the former, out of 140 children, seven—i.e., five per cent.—are found to be deaf: the proportion of one in twenty being to one in 135, as six and three-quarters to one. In other words, if we suppose a given number of children (540) the issue of mixed marriages between the deaf and the hearing, and an equal number sprung from the intermarriage of the deaf, there would be twenty-seven deaf-mutes among the children of the latter, while there would only be four in the families of the former.

Enough has probably now been said—and for the opinions advanced ample evidence has, I think, been adduced—to establish the proposition which I undertook to maintain, namely, that there is no sufficient reason for prohibiting the marriages of deaf persons with the hearing; but that it is, at the same time, highly inexpedient that the deaf and dumb should marry with each other.

